



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SPRINGFIELD MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FELONY DWI AT FORT LEONARD WOOD

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Springfield, Mo., man pleaded guilty in federal court today to driving while intoxicated at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

Michael N. Lynge, 36, of Springfield, Mo., pleaded guilty before U.S. Magistrate Judge James C. England this morning to felony driving while intoxicated while a persistent and prior offender.

Lynge entered the south gate of Fort Leonard Wood on FLW Route 1 at about 10:30 p.m. on Sept. 3, 2004, and stopped at the first speed bump warning drivers of the upcoming security checkpoint. The security guard, who motioned for **Lynge** to proceed to the checkpoint, noticed a strong odor of alcohol coming from the vehicle. Suspecting that he was intoxicated, the security guard contacted the military police and asked **Lynge** to step out of the vehicle. **Lynge** was later taken to the military police station for a breathalyzer test, which he refused to take.

Within the last 10 years, Graves said, **Lynge** has been convicted of DWI a total of four times. **Lynge** has been convicted of two felony DWIs under Missouri's persistent and prior offender statute since 2002, in Lawrence and Christian counties. **Lynge**, who was under a suspended execution of sentence for these two felony DWI convictions at the time of the federal offense, was also convicted in 1996 and 1998 of driving while intoxicated in Arkansas.

Under federal statutes, **Lynge** could be subject to a sentence of up to three years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$250,000. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

This case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Kevin S. Hillman. It was investigated by the Fort Leonard Wood Military Police and the Fort Leonard Wood Security

Force.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow